

Remarks

Claims 1, 3-22, 28, 30-33, 35-36 and 38-43 are pending. Claims 2, 23-27, 29, 34 and 37 are canceled and new Claims 40-43 are added in this Response.

Objection to the Specification

The Specification has been amended to correct the informality noted at paragraph 2 of the Office Action.

Claim Objections

The claims have been amended to correct the items noted at paragraphs 3-5 of the Office Action.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

Claims 1, 13, 28 and 36 – Converting To Common Units. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 2, which has been canceled. Amended Claim 1 recites a converter configured to convert the first and second values into a common unit of measure. Claim 13, 28 and 36 recite similar limitations. The Office incorrectly asserts that Owa (6348971) teaches such a converter. Owa does not expressly teach the required converter and the Office makes no specific assertion to the contrary. Rather, the Office is apparently arguing that the required converter is inherent because, the Office asserts, that Owa teaches comparing the number of pages present in a printer with the number of pages needed to print a print job. Any such teaching, however, does not require the presence of the claimed converter because the resource needed and the resource available are already measured in the same units – pages/sheets. See Owa, column 7, lines 27-39 and Fig. 4. No conversion is necessary and, therefore, a converter is not inherent in Owa.

Claims 7, 33, 40 and 42 – Switching Modes. Claim 7 has been rewritten as an independent claim and amended to recite that the controller is configured to generate a second control signal for causing the printer to switch from a first mode of operation in which the printer responds to a printer server and a second mode in which the printer responds only to a printer driver residing on a computer different from the printer server. Claims 33, 40 and 42 contain similar limitations.

Owa teaches a host computer, a group of printers and a server all connected to the same network. Owa does not teach any kind of a control signal generated by any kind of a controller that causes one of the printers to switch between modes or

any mode in which the printer responds only to a printer driver that is not on the server. The most that can be said about the network in Owa is that a printer might be responsive to the server and the host computer. Any such responsiveness, however, does not necessarily imply or even suggest switching from one mode of operation to another or switching to a mode of operation in which the printer is not responsive to the server. If the Office disagrees, it is respectfully requested to specifically point out and explain those passages in Owa that might reasonably be deemed to teach both of these features. Absent such a showing, Claims 7, 33, 40 and 42 as amended should be allowed.

All claims are now felt to be in condition for allowance.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



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